

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6248

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN
TO ECUADOR, AUGUST 22-24, 1975

1. DURING PRESIDENT ALFONSON LOPEZ MICHELSEN'S VISIT TO QUITO, AUGUST 22-24, THREE DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA: A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, A TREATY DELIMITING THEIR RESPECTIVE OCEAN AREAS AND PLEDGING COOPERATION IN THE CONSERVATION OF THEIR RESOURCES, AND A JOINT DECLARATION.

2. THE TREATY MARKED THE BOUNDARY, RECOGNIZED THE DIFFERING POSITIONS HELD BY THE TWO COUNTIRES WITH RESPECT TO A 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND A 200 MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA. THE TREATY RECOGNIZED THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND PLEDGED COOPERATION IN THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND USE OF THE TWO NATION'S RESOURCES.

3. THE LENGTHY JOINT DECLARATION COVERED A LARGE NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR THE UN AND THE OAS, SOLIDARITY WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN SEEKING A FAIRER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, REAFFIRMATION OF EVERY NATION'S CONTROL OF ITS RESOURCES AND RECOGNITION OF THE WORLDWIDE FOOD SHORTAGE. THE DECLARATION ALSO EXPRESSED
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CONFIDENCE IN THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY ON RECIPROCAL

ASSISTANCE, PROPOSED A LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION TO COORDINATE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY, CALLED FOR OLADE AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO FORCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO ATTAIN A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER FOR THE SEA AND OCEAN AREAS.

4. THE JOINT DECLARATION INCLUDED STATEMENTS REPEATING PORTIONS OF THE TREATY SIGNED ESTABLISHING THE LIMITS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES OCEAN AREAS, INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON COASTAL WATERS. STRONG SUPPORT WAS PLEDGED TO LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND ESPECIALLY TO THE ANDEAN PACT AND THE CARTAGENA AGREEMENT.

5. COOPERATION IN BORDER DEVELOPMENT AND CONTROL OF SMUGGLING, INCLUDING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, WAS PROPOSED, AS WELL AS MUTUAL COOPERATION TO INCREASE TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. OF SPECIAL NOTE WAS A COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE IN THE DEVELOPEMENT OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' AMAZONIAN AREAS.

6. THE SCHEDULE OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN WAS FILLED WITH ALL THE HONORS, CEREMONIES AND DINNERS THAT ARE STANDARD FOR SUCH VISITS. TEXTS OF THE TREATY DELIMITING THE TWO COUNTRIES OCEAN AREAS AND THE JOINT DECLARATION WILL BE SENT BY SEPARATE CABLES.

7. COMMENT: THE VIST CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. INSPITE OF NUMEROUS ECUADOREAN PRESS ARTICLES TO THE CONTRARY PRIOR TO LOPEZ MICHELSEN'S ARRIVAL, HE DID NOT ENDORSE ECUADOR'S POSITION ON THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ DEFTLY HANDLED COLOMBIAN REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT WHEN ECUADOR WOULD RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT BY SAYING A TIME HAD NOT YET BEEN FIXED, AND THAT INSTITUTIONS MUST FIRST BE BUILT. THE VISIT HAS BEEN CITED BY SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS AS A STEP TOWARD RESTORING TO THEIR PROPER PLACE THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT PREVIOUSLY EXISTED BETWEEN ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN BETTERED.
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